



SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION

MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, June 16, 2022
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: In person (below) and remote options.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Headquarters
4232 Las Virgenes Road #1994
Calabasas, CA 91302

Charlie Caspary chaired the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (Commission) Governing Board meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. Commission staff provided an overview of the meeting protocols. Introductions followed.

1) Comments from Members of the Public on Items not on the Agenda and Public Testimony on All Agenda Items

Walter Lamb presented a video on public access at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

2) Informational Items

a) Order of Agenda

There was no change to the order of the agenda. The order of the agenda was approved without objection.

b) Report from the Chair

Caspary reported on the May 19 Executive Committee meeting, which included announcement of the in-person location for the remaining 2022 Executive Committee meetings and discussion of coordination with other National Estuary Programs (NEPs), federal bipartisan infrastructure law funding and funding guidance expectations, submittal of the Annual Work Plan to the US EPA, Commission staff activities and NEP activities carried out by The Bay Foundation, and approval of the agenda for this Governing Board meeting.

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c) Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee

John Dorsey presented on wildlife at El Segundo Beach and reported on Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) activities, including introductions of new TAC members and plans for the next State of the Bay Report.

d) Reports from the Chief Administrative Director and Santa Monica Bay NEP Director

Marissa Caringella announced Susie Santilena is replacing Wing Tam as the alternate representing LA Sanitation & Environment. Caringella reported on Commission staff activities, including the Proposition 50 grant program; drought resources and water conservation on the Commission's website; participation in The Bay Foundation's board meeting, Dockwalker training, and abalone tagging; Public Records Act requests; tribal allyship training and relationship building; Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing groundbreaking ceremony; Topanga Lagoon Restoration Project Public Scoping meeting; Marine Protection Areas long-term monitoring results; the Culver Boulevard Realignment and Stormwater Capture Project completion ceremony; Juneteenth; and local funding updates.

Tom Ford provided an update on the federal bipartisan infrastructure law NEP funding and anticipated guidance. Ford reported on Coastal Research Institute's research on harmful algal blooms, eelgrass, and rocky intertidal habitat. Ford also reported on NEP activities carried out by The Bay Foundation, including the Dockwalker program, coordination with the Environmental Charter Middle Schools, abalone outplanting, and Zuma Beach plant restoration.

Member Comments

Members commented on coordination and information sharing with other NEPs.

e) Reports from Members on Implementation of Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Goals and Actions

Annelisa Moe reported on Heal the Bay's beach cleanup and surfing events and upcoming release of the Annual Beach and River Report Cards.

Dennis Washburn reported on the Topanga Lagoon Restoration Project.

Steve Uhring reported on funding for the Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project and Rindge Dam removal.

Martha Tremblay reported on the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' and the Metropolitan Water District's demonstration facility to recycle wastewater.

Rorie Skei reported on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's wildfire resilience funding and native plants for the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing Project.

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Chair Caspary reported on Las Virgenes Municipal Water District's installation of hourly water meters to help water conservation efforts.

Cung Nguyen reported on the Safe Clean Water Program and deployment of a trash catchment system along Ballona Creek.

3) Governing Board Business

a) Consideration of Approval of April 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved without changes by roll-call vote. Moved: Dennis Washburn. Seconded: Cung Nguyen. Abstained: Annelisa Moe, Maura Monagan, Randy Rodriguez, Rorie Skei.

4) Additional Informational Items

a) Presentation on the Safe Clean Water Program Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Stormwater Investment Plans within the Santa Monica Bay Watershed – Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Caitlin Gray provided background information on the Safe Clean Water Program and invited members to comment on the preferred content for a resolution regarding projects in the Santa Monica Bay watershed after the presentation.

Kirk Allen presented on the Safe Clean Water Program timeline and process. Allen outlined the projects included in the Stormwater Investment Plans developed by the North, Central and South Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committees, including infrastructure projects, scientific studies, and technical resources program proposals.

Member Comments

Members commented on Safe Clean Water Program, including revenue generated to date, tax credit program, public and community involvement in Stormwater Investment Plan development, the education program, and funds allocated to the North, Central and South Santa Monica Bay Watershed Areas for the next fiscal year.

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b) Presentation from New Technical Advisory Committee Member Rosi Dagit – Resource Conservation District of Santa Monica Mountains

Marissa Caringella introduced TAC member Rosi Dagit.

Rosi Dagit presented on the overlap of goals for the Commission and the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, including restoring the Malibu Creek ecosystem; removing stream barriers; restoring small coastal lagoons; implementing wildlife crossings; enhancing populations of rare species including the Southern California steelhead trout, tidewater goby, and western pond turtles; enhancing coastal resilience policies; conducting invasive species research; and public engagement and outreach.

Member Comments

Members commented on ways to assist the Resource Conservation District, cooperation with new elected officials, and Southern California steelhead trout under consideration for state protected status.

c) Presentation on the Pure Water Project Demonstration Facility – Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Chair Caspary introduced the Las Virgenes MWD presentation on the Pure Water Project Demonstration Facility.

David Pedersen announced a tour of the facility will be held after the meeting. Pedersen presented background on the Las Virgenes MWD wastewater treatment facilities, water supply-demand challenges, and the Las Virgenes-Triumfo Pure Water Project, including the stakeholder-driven planning process, the advanced water treatment process, the purpose of the demonstration facility, and future plans for a full-scale facility.

Member Comments

Members commented on previous plans to transport water to Los Angeles, anticipated completion of the full-scale facility, potential to treat and recycle stormwater in the future, any need for modifications to the Las Virgenes reservoir, and consideration of beneficial uses including maintaining minimum instream flows for habitats.

5) Other Businesses

a) Closed Session

No closed session was held.

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b) Member Comment

There were no member comments.

c) Announcement of Next Meeting Date (tentatively set for August 18, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.)

Chair Caspary announced the next Governing Board meeting for August 18 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Attendance:

Voting Members/Alternates

Abby Austin, Los Angeles City Council District 11
Jonathan Bishop, State Water Resources Control Board
Edward Caldwell, At-Large Representative (West Basin Municipal Water District)
Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Tessa Charnofsky, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (3rd District)
Megan Cooper, California State Coastal Conservancy – *via teleconference*
Misti Kerns, Coastal Tourism Industry (Santa Monica Travel & Tourism) –
via teleconference
Yasmine-Imani McMorris, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (City of Culver City) –
via teleconference
Annelisa Moe, Environmental/Public Interest (Heal the Bay)
Maura Monagan, Environmental/Public Interest (Los Angeles Waterkeeper)
Cung Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Randy Rodriguez, California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Maral Tashjian, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors
Martha Tremblay, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Steven Uhring, Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)
Dennis Washburn, At-Large Representative (Resource Conservation District of the
Santa Monica Mountains)
Jeff Wilson, Business/Economic Interest (Chevron)

Non-voting Members/Alternates

Amy Arzate, State Assembly 66th District
John Dorsey, Technical Advisory Committee
Tom Ford, Santa Monica Bay NEP Director

Commission and State Water Resources Control Board Staff

Marissa Caringella, Commission
Eric Gillman, State Water Resources Control Board
Caitlin Gray, Commission

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Public Attendees

David Pederson, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Erin Huang

Kirk Allen, Los Angeles County Public Works

Mikaela Rudolph, Heal the Bay

Rosi Dagit, Resource Conservation District of Santa Monica Mountains

Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust